

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

GENETICS

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology. Vol. IX. Genes and Chromosomes: Structure and Organization. With a foreword by M. Demerec. New York, 1941. The Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., N.Y. Pp. x + 315. Price \$4.50.

THE Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology are conferences on selected topics of biology, which are usually attended by a comparatively small number of workers; these are in session for several weeks, so that plenty of time is available for discussions, a satisfactory arrangement not always made for meetings of learned societies and congresses. The present volume deals with chromosomes; it is of particular interest, as the various problems are attacked not only from the biological angle, but also by chemists, colloid chemists, and physicists. The treatment of the questions is thus more comprehensive than could be achieved by a meeting of representatives of a single compartment of science. It is quite impossible to give even a list of the various contributions, thirty-four in number, including a résumé and perspectives of the conference by H. J. Muller. A feature of the volume is that the discussions are printed in full. The volume gives an excellent cross-section of the present knowledge on chromosomes in all their aspects. Now that the United States have joined in the great struggle, these fruitful conferences are likely to be interrupted for the duration, and this work may hence be the last organized conspectus on chromosomes and genetics for some time to come. A word of praise is due to the editor of the volume, Dr. Katherine S. Brehme, whose work made possible the production of this useful and handsome volume in a remarkably short time after the holding of the symposium.

H. G. HILL.

CRIME

Mannheim, Hermann. Social Aspects of Crime in England between the Wars. London, 1940. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Pp. 382. Price 18s.

DR. HERMANN MANNHEIM held the Leon Fellowship for the session 1936-7, and the writing and publication of this stimulating book was made possible through the generosity of the Leon Bequest Committee of the University of London, aided by a grant from the Publication Fund of the University. The author, who was formerly Judge of the Court of Appeal in Berlin and Professor of Laws, Berlin University, has made full use of his analytical and critical training in presenting his material.

The book originated in the belief that there existed a noticeable gap in criminological and penological research which might profitably be filled by enquiries into the history of crime, its causes and treatment in England during the previous twenty-five years. The investigation had to be spread over nearly four years and restricted to the dimensions of a single individual working with a more or less fixed time-limit. As the work proceeded the author found it necessary to reshape his programme in several directions, and the chapter on Juvenile Delinquency had to be completely revised to avoid any overlapping with official investigations as well as useless repetitions and general statements. Dr. Mannheim intended originally to give a summary of his conclusions and some hints for the future, but forbore to increase the length of the book or make forecasts, since the World War may be expected to add still further to the many new problems which have already arisen.

The first part of the book deals with the structure and interpretation of the Criminal Statistics for England and Wales, which are based mainly upon two fundamental sets of figures, namely, statistics of persons who have committed crimes and statistics of